

THE
WHOLE DUTY
OF
W O M A N.

~~~~~  
A NEW EDITION.  
~~~~~

WITH
CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENTS.

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M,DCC,XCVI.

ADDRESS.



ADDRESS.

GIVE ear, O ye Daughters of
Beauty; attend to the voice of
your sister: for experience hath
taught her wisdom, and length of
days, virtue, and understanding.

My father was the Brother of
Tenderness; my mother was the
Sister of Love.

As the rose-bud opening to the
morn, as the dew on the lily, so was
the loveliness of my youth,

1

I awoke at the rising of the dawn; my salutation was that of joy and gladness; Pleasure beckened me forth, and I sported in the sun-shine of Plenty.

The hours were swift, and ran smiling away, but the lightness of my heart out-lived the going down of the sun.

The day departed with the mildest breeze, and the night but invited me to bed or repose.

My pillow was the softest down, my slumber attended with golden dreams.

Thus one day passed away; and the morning of the next found me happy!

Happy

Happy are the hours of artless innocence! Happy the days of virgin simplicity, where the bosom is a stranger to deceit, and the heart unconscious of the painful sigh.

O that I could overtake the wings of Time! O that I could recall the pleasures of my youth! for the days of my womanhood have been days of many sorrows; the tears of misfortune have bedimmed the lustre of mine eye; the lily is faded, and the rose-bud is blown and withered on my cheek.

For I listened to the voice of ADULATION, and her bewitching, blandishments allured me to destruction.

The

The silver tongue of FLATTERY is hollow, and laden with guile; the manna that drops from her lips is corrosive poison to the heart.

Hear then, O Daughter of Britain! O fairest of the fair among women; let my precepts be treasures in thy bosom, and walk in the ways of my counsel; so shalt thou shun the thorn of reproach, more keen than the bite of the asp, more venomous than the sting of the scorpion.

The hand of scorn shall point its finger from thee; the tear of misery shall never bedew thy cheek; thy life shall be replete with good things, and peace and honour shall satisfy thy soul.

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APPLAUSE.

O, breath of public praise,
Short-liv'd and vain!—oft gain'd without desert,
As often lost unmerited!

APPLAUD not on slight acquaintance; be not over-hasty in thy commendations.

For the deed that speaketh for thy sister, may not be owing to a deserving motive; nor the words of her mouth proceeding from the sincerity of her heart.

B

By

By giving applause rashly, thou may'st be reduced to recall thy opinion, and thy praises hereafter will not avail thy deserving friend.

Commend not thyself with thy lips; but let thine actions speak in thy behalf.

Yet the merit of thy deeds may be lost in ostentation; and she that seeketh praise shall be disappointed therein.

Also, if thou disclaimest the encomiums to which thou art fully entitled, they shall be justly taken from thee again.

For she who affecteth to despise

spise commendation, shall not enjoy the privilege thereof.

Be not exalted, though all men commend thee; for thou knowest not but the breath of a whisper may convert thy eulogies into revillings.

Give no applause to another, because she bestoweth it on thee; lest the world detect thy motive, and thy words be held in derision.

Dost thou commend another for virtues more conspicuous in thyself;—take heed lest thou art accounted a trumpeter of thine own deservings.

Be not too cold in the general
applause, yet utter not thy praise
without due deliberation.

Praise not a woman to the skies;
for her most consummate perfec-
tions are inferior to the angels.

Thy friend will not thank thee
for the extravagance of thy praise;
for undeserved commendation is
the severest satire.

Rather at all times approve
than applaud; for the child, and
the undistinguishing fool, clappeth
his hands.

AFFECTATION.

But one admirer has th' affected lass,
Nor meets that one, but in the looking glass.

WHO is she that cometh
tripping with nice minc-
ing steps; whose tongue lisbeth
sweetness, and whose form is not
her own?

She hath put off herself, and
decked her with the borrow'd
plumes of others, by whom she is
despised.

She affecteth melody of voice,

B 3

and

and harmony of speech, and wisdom, and importance, and dignity of deportment.

Her dress is antic and singular; her attire is gaudy, or rich to excess.

She hath forgotten how to tread; she neither danceth nor walketh along.

She distorteth her features to appear lovely; she laugheth at nothing to shew the beauty of her teeth.

She washeth her cheeks 'till the native bloom departeth away; then painteth with the artificial rose.

She

She placeth herself in the midst of an assembly; she delighteth to dance alone; she sitteth in the foremost seat of the theatre.

She is pleased to hear herself speak; she listeneth not to the voice of another.

She breaketh in upon the discourse of her sister, and finisheth the sentence her neighbour hath begun.

She taketh on her to instruct those wiser than herself, and to teach what she understandeth not.

Dost thou laugh at her folly; she will pity thy ignorance, and go on in her own way.

She is incorrigible 'till she seeth
herself in the form of another;
yet even that may not make her
sensible of her error.

Beware, O daughter of beauty,
lest thou art misled by affection;
for thou wilt be neglected by
others, 'till, by reflection, thou
discoverest the cause, and art led
to despise thyself.

ACQUAINTANCE.

First, on thy friend, deliberate with thyself;
Pause, ponder, fift; not eager in the choice,
Nor zealous of the chosen; fixing, fix;
Judge before friendship, then confide 'till death.

WHO is she that biddeth
thee good-morrow; that
kisseth thy cheek at parting, and
giveth thee an invitation to her
house?

She is an acquaintance, believe
her not; go thou to her home,
tarry a while, and thou wilt find
her out.

The

The coldness of her respect will appear in thy welcome, and the distance of her behaviour will pall thine entertainment.

Doth she promise thee much in thy prosperity, and with an opportunity to oblige thee; thou shalt see her avoid thee in the day of thy trouble; her door will be shut against thee, and thy name estranged from her knowledge.

Doth she sympathize in thy misfortune; doth she tell her sorrow for thy present distress; yet her cheek is dry, and she forgetteth thee the moment she turneth from thee.

Doth

Doth she rejoyce to see thee,
yet her eyes sparkleth not; is she
sorry for thy departure, yet her
countenance altereth not.

Good offices are familiar to her
tongue; but if thou claimeſt her
promiſes ſhe is aſtoniſhed, and
knoweth not what thou meaneſt.

She calleth herſelf thy friend to
thy face, and owneth to a third
perſon ſhe hath ſome knowledge
of thee.

Truſt her not with thy deal-
ings, let her have no knowledge
of thy way; for ſhe is the ſpreader
of ſcandal, and inquireth after
news to divulge it.

Avoid

Avoid also the number of her
sisters, nor let them find out the
way to thine house.

AUTHORITY.

.....Well directed Power,
Woman's domestic honour, and chief praise.

ART thou supreme in thine
own house, or art thou se-
cond, in delegated authority; trust
not the concerns of thy family to
a servant.

Tempt not thy domestics, by
putting confidence in them; give
them not room to be merely eye-
servants.

Dost thou exalt one above the
rest;

rest; let him be such whose merit is conspicuous; so shalt thou excite commendable emulation in his fellows.

Let not the number of thy servants exceed the business of the day; for the hand that wanteth employment is soon excited to mischief.

An unprofitable servant is a scandal to his master; he betrayeth the hand that provideth him bread.

The vices of thy servant will be a reproach to thine house; for he goeth by the name of his mistress.

If

If he serve thee faithfully, cast not off thy servant in distress; neither let him ask thee for his wages.

The detention of the price of the hireling is injustice, and exciteh him to be his own paymaster.

Let not the deserving feel the weight of his servitude: neither bid the best of thine household sit down at thy table.

The reward of a good servant should be much favour; but familiarity will bring thy kindness into contempt.

CURIOSITY.

.....Tho' Thought will have no bound,
A Virgin's tongue should shame to hint a Thought
At which a Virgin's cheek would blush!

AS the first of all Evils, as the
source of Calamity, as the
source of all Pain, avoid, O
Daughter of Eve, the bewitching
charm of Curiosity.

Seek not to know what is im-
proper for thee: thirst not after
prohibited knowledge; for happier
is she who but knoweth a little,
than

than she who is acquainted with too much.

Remember thy Mother, the Daughter of Heaven, arrayed in the whitest robes of Innocence; forget not the fatal consequence of her Disobedience.

How much happier in the bowers of Paradise, feasting on the luscious grape of Gladness, than wandering in the wilderness of Care, to chew the bitter weed of Repentance,

Be thou contented, therefore, with knowledge fitting for thee; for in the acquaintance of many

C

things

things lieth not Wisdom, but in the knowledge of that which is meet.

Let the threshold of thy neighbour's door secure her family: let her window tempt not thine eye to see, nor the open casement thine ear to hear the secrets of her house.

The prying eye is a foe to itself, and the listening ear will hear itself slandered.

Art thou inquisitive after deeds of scandal and reproach? Inquire of thyself, and thou wilt find employment within.

Art



FRONTISPIECE



Duty of Women

Art thou a Virgin! Doth the bloom of health glow lively on thy cheek? Study not to know the ways of man.

As the way of a Serpent in the grass, or a Traveller over the waste, in a dark night, so the ways of Man are dangerous and hard to find out.

Thy ignorance of his cunning may lay thee open to his deceit; but the knowledge thereof must be the consequence of thy being deceived.

The first step towards being wise, is to know that thou art ignorant;

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norant; and, if thou wouldst be esteemed in the judgment of others, cast off the folly of seeming wise in thine own conceit.

From the experience of others, do thou extract wisdom: and from their failings correct thine own faults.

Learn, therefore, O Woman, what thou shouldest know, before thou seekest farther knowledge,

CENSURE.

Be good yourself, nor think another's shame
Can raise your merit, or adorn your fame;
Virtue is amiable, mild, serene,
Without all beauty, and all peace within.

BE not fond of reprov^g; for
she who assumeth the place
of a censor will be esteem^d arro-
gant; and she who reproveth
others must look well to her own
conduct.

For the ill example of the re-
prover is a scandal to her office,

as the mal-conduct of the preceptor bringeth his precepts into contempt.

Beware how thou censurest, lest in like manner thou art censured.

Trust not to the appearance of a crime, nor to the breath of report.

For as the specious shew of virtue may be hypocrisy, so the appearance of ill may be sometimes deceit.

The news of the day may awaken suspicion, but justice condemneth

denneth not without strict examination.

The report that prevaileth may be the working of envy; and envy is uncharitable, and delighteth in false accusation.

Prejudice is unjust; for the look is not the true index of the mind; neither doth a day, or a week, discover the behaviour of a stranger.

Be tender of the good name of others, so mayest thou find the same tenderness towards thine own indiscretions.

If thou art forced to condemn,
condemn with gentleness and
compassion; so shall thy praises
last longer than thy beauty; and
thy reputation, from the ornament
of thy youth, become the comfort
of thy age.

CHAS-

CHASTITY.

Keep still that holy and immaculate fire,
Disdain as much to let Mortality know ye,
As Stars to kiss the pavement!
Ye have a substance as excellent as theirs,
Holding your pureness,

WOULDST thou be honoured by thy Creator;
wouldst thou be happy in thyself;
wouldst thou be lovely in the eyes
of man; without Chastity thou
wilt be neither of these.

For its loss is the loss of peace
and satisfaction to thy soul; and
the

the consequences too often the worst that can befall thee.

He that robbeth thee of it will despise thee, and expose thy want; and she that hath in secret forfeited her own, will hold thee in much contempt.

Behold the house of incontinence; the mark of infamy is indelibly stamped on the threshold, and on the posts of the door.

At the window sitteth misfortune, forcing a smile; and within are remorse and disease, and irretrievable misery.

The children of her house are the curse of their mother, and
their

their lives the growing monuments of their infamy.

Be on thy guard, for thou knowest not the weakness of thy nature, nor the power of temptation.

Art thou chaste, boast not thereof; the security of thy possession is as brittle glass, that may by accident fall and be broken.

Is there a man with whom thou delightest to talk; let not thine ear be too familiar with his discourse.

Doth he teach Philosophy, and entertain thee with the researches
of

of knowledge; yet beware lest he instruct thee too far.

Is he accounted modest, and sober, and virtuous; depend not on the truth of these pretences.

Doth he promise thee fair; doth he protest, in the sincerity of his heart, he meaneth no harm; yet believe him not; neither put confidence in his discretion.

Doth he only ask a kiss of thy cheek, indulge not his frequent request; lest the sweetness thereof inflame him to desire, and the poison of his lips descend into thine own bosom.

Taste

Taste not the wine, when the bowl goes a second time round; join not often with him in the sprightly dance; nor suffer importunity to overtake thee.

By avoiding temptation, thou mayest preserve thy chastity; but man is the serpent of deceit, and woman is the daughter of Eve.

COMPLACENCE.

Sweet as refreshing dews, or summer showers,
To the long parching thirst of drooping flowers,
Grateful as fanning gales to fainting swains,
And soft as trickling balm to bleeding pains,
Such are thy words.

TIMOROUS as the tender
fawn, pliant as the bending
osier, gentle as the young turtle,
and affable as courtesy itself, is the
daughter of Complacence.

She maketh friends wherever
she goeth; she is loved by all the
children of men.

Her

Her behaviour winneth the stranger, and endeareth her to those of her acquaintance.

Do her steps lead to the house of mourning; she cometh not in dancing; neither doth the lightness of her heart disgust the wedded to calamity.

She weepeth with those who weep, she laugheth with those that laugh; she singeth in the house of gladness, and rejoiceth in the joy of her neighbours.

She giveth not her advice to the stranger, nor openeth her lips among

among a crowd of visitors, 'till after the rest have spoken.

She fashioneth her behaviour to the model of others: wherefore all must approve the resemblance of themselves.

In the contest betwixt two, she is silent; she divulgeth not herself, that either might know to condemn or approve.

Art thou deceived, she will mildly endeavour to set thee right; but if thou art froward to be instructed, she will permit thee to enjoy thy opinion undisturbed; so shalt thou praise her when thou findest

findest out thy error, for having so modestly left thee in thy deception.

She is the sister of moderation; she denieth none the privilege of thinking for themselves.

She urgeth not belief where a doubt is remaining, nor denieth in the least the power of conviction.

Dost thou admire her steps, wouldst thou reap the advantages thereof; yet be cautious lest she lead thee astray.

Follow not a multitude 'till they lead thee into evil, nor fear to draw back when thy sister goeth

D

wrong,

wrong, though she be offended at thy singularity.

Be not over-courteous, lest thy modesty suffer; fear not being accounted unfashionably virtuous, lest thou afterwards reproach thyself.

Complacence will endear thee to the world, but virtue to thyself and thy Creator.

The love of many bringeth gladness to the heart; but happiness is only the companion of the upright.

ELEGANCE.

Do you, ye Fair, endeavour to possess
An elegance of mind, as well as dress;
Be that your ornament, and know to please,
By graceful Nature's unaffected ease.

AS the diamond is an ornament to beauty, so is elegance to the behaviour of a woman.

Art thou modest — art thou chaste; is thy reputation unfulfilled; is thy name spotless as the new-fallen snow: yet elegance

D 2

will

will make thee still more worthy admiration.

As the crow or the raven which devour carrion on the hills of the North, differ from the singing bird of the Canaries, so differeth the elegant woman from her who is wanting therein.

As the elegance of dress adds grace to beauty itself, so delicacy in behaviour is the ornament of the most beautiful mind.

Discover not the knowledge of things it is not expected thou shouldst understand; for as the experience of a matron ill becometh the lips of a virgin, so a pretended

pretended ignorance is often better than a real shew of knowledge.

Undistinguishing levity giveth hourly offence, and the form of solemnity becomes unseemly when it lasteth too long.

Is there a word that will offend, is there a tale thy companion chuseth not to hear; avoid it in thy discourse; so shall she honour thy prudence, and applaud thy good nature.

Art thou learned, let not the difficulty of thy speech puzzle the ignorant; lest, instead of admiring thy knowledge, they condemn thee for pride and affectation.

Yet let thy words be choice as the matter of thy speech, nor pervert the elegance of thy phrase to suit the gross apprehensions of the weak and injudicious.

Perspicuity will never force thee to be indelicate, or to forget thou shouldst support the elegance of a woman.

Let thy actions be proportioned to thy speech, so shalt thou gain respect; for whoso setteth a watch over the breath of her lips, will preserve the work of her hands free from blame.

EDUCATION.

Delightful task ! to rear the tender thought,
To teach the young idea how to shoot,
To pour the fresh instruction o'er the mind,
To breathe th' enliv'ning spirit, and to fix
The gen'rous purpose in the glowing breast.

ART thou a mother, let thy
child be the darling of thy
affections, let the fruit of thy
womb be the first partaker of thy
tenderness.

Are thy pleasures dearer than
thine offspring ; dost thou become
cruel like the ostrich of the wilder-

ness; art thou hardened against thy young ones, as though they were not thine; they shall live to look coldly on thee; they shall not regard thee as a mother in the days of thy widowhood.

Dost thou refuse them nourishment from the fountain of their life; the sea monsters draw out the breast and give suck to their young, but the milk of human kindness is denied to her children.

Dote not on the idol of thy womb, for the extreme fondness of a mother is as dangerous as the violence of her hate.

Thy

Thy darling shall be taken from thee in the excess of thy love; or if it live, it shall grieve thine eye and consume thine heart; it shall bring a curse upon thee and not a blessing.

In the morning of infancy, when the dawn of reason appears, teach thy child obedience.

On this foundation thou mayest build high towers; this clay thou mayest mould into what form thou pleasest.

An obedient mind is ductile and tender; but a stubborn breast taketh no impression.

As

As the young osier groweth as it is bent, as the shoot of the vine curleth as we list; so is a young child in the hands of the mother.

Correct betimes; lest thy indulgence be cruel, and evil become habitual.

Trust not a servant with the education of thy son, nor a maid servant with the tuition of thy daughter.

Study the temper and capacity of thine offspring, and model thy reproof and severity in proportion thereto.

Let

Let not the authority of a parent deny compliance to its own child; lest it descend to familiarity with servitude, and listen to mischiefs of flattery and insinuation.

Make thy daughter thy companion, so shall she become thy friend; the yoke of duty will be light, and the obligations of the child become the voluntary office of good-will towards thee.

Is thy daughter beautiful; lead her not into the public haunts for admiration; for the way of a virgin, just rising to the estate of a woman, is a path where the foot
will

will slip, if the hand beareth not on the staff of education.

Let not the bowels of the mother petrify against her child; let her not cast off her daughter to misery.

Sell her not; neither make a sacrifice of her youth to the power of gold.

As those who offer immolations to Moloch, so are the idolaters of Mammon.

Let not thy conduct be a reproach to thy precepts; lest thy daughter disregard thee, and say, thou teachest others, but teachest not thyself.

EM-

EMPLOYMENT.

Well ordered home, man's best delight to make,
And by submissive wisdom, modest skill,
And every gentle, care-eluding art,
To raise the virtues, animate the bliss,
And heighten all the joys of human life.
Be this, the Female dignity and praise!

FROM whom cometh evil?
from whom poverty and de-
jection of spirit?

Idleness is the mother of mis-
chief; idleness is the parent of
shame and disease.

The

The slothful spendeth the day in slumber; she waketh at noon; she drinketh her cordial; and inquireth the time of the morning.

She turneth again to sleep, and waketh not 'till the dinner of the evening.

She converteth the night into day, and keepeth the light of the sun hid from her eyes.

Her house is a scene of riot and confusion; she hath eye-servants.

Her appetite faileth, and the physician is daily set down at the door.

Industry

Industry is up with the sun, she waketh at the crowing of the cock, and walketh abroad to taste the sweetness of the morning.

She is ruddy as the daughter of health; her ears are delighted with the music of the shrill lark.

Her garment sweepeth the dew-drop from the new stubble and the green grass, and her path is by the murmuring of the purling brook.

Her appetite is keen; her blood is pure and temperate, and her pulse beateth even.

Her house is elegant, her hand-
maids

maids are the daughters of neatness,
and plenty smileth at her table.

She saunters not; neither stretcheth herself out on the couch of indolence.

She crieth not what have I to do? but the work of her hands is the thought of a moment.

She listeneth not to the gossip's tale; she sippeth not her tea in scandal; but employment is the matter of her discourse.

Her work is done at the evening, but the work of the slothful is put off 'till to-morrow.

FRIEND-

FRIENDSHIP.

Celestial Happiness, whene'er she stoops
To visit earth, one shrine the Goddess finds,
The bosom of a Friend !
Where heart meets heart, reciprocally soft.

AS the tenderness of a mother
in the hour of thy distress,
as the love of a father in the day
of thy trouble, so is the help of a
friend in the time of need.

Dost thou think thou hast many friends; do they profess much love; are they lavish in their promises,

mises of kindness—be not credulous, nor rely on the form of set speeches.

The breath of the mouth is cheap, it costeth nothing; and the tongue moveth slippery within; but the heart is often unacquainted therewith.

Hast thou tried their sincerity; hast thou experienced the veracity of their promises; have they served thee when thou stoodst in need of their assistance; yet, for all this, beware how far thou confidest in them.

Try them once again, and at the third time they may cast thee off,

off, and say thou troublest them too often.

Hast thou a friend, put it not in her power to be much thine enemy, if thou canst avoid the necessity thereof; for thou knowest not how slight an occasion may turn her heart against thee.

The bent of inclination, thy agreeable accomplishments may excite many to a shew of amity, for a while; but friendship dwelleth not in such outward appearance.

Thou art not indebted for their kindness; the favour thou re-

ceivest is but the price of thy talents, and their own interest the motive of their good-will towards thee.

There are those who make friendship on purpose to betray; who confer obligations, that they may exact obedience.

Who think they have a right to command thee; thy life and thy reputation, they will boast as the effect of their tenderness, and thy success as their care towards thee.

Have no confidence in these; neither desire to be entrusted with the privacies of their actions.

Who giveth thee a secret and
enjoineth

enjoineth thy silence, she doth it, that she may have the pleasure of telling it herself.

Yet let not thy distrust stir up ingratitude. The favour of the day deserveth the thanks thereof, 'till the injury of to-morrow cancels the obligations.

Is there a friend indeed, thou wilt know her when thy acquaintance forsake thee; will she defend thy innocence when all men accuse thee falsely; will she bear reproach unjustly for thy sake? take her to thy bosom; she is a jewel of an high price, a diamond of inestimable value.

FRUGALITY.

Life's cares are comforts; such by heav'n design'd:
Cares are employments; and without employ,
The soul is on a rack.

GIVE nothing foolishly away.
Who so scattereth abroad
will find herself the loser; who
throweth her substance away, shall
lift up her hands empty in the day
of necessity.

The hand which lavishly distributes its good, will at length close its fingers in emptiness.

Profusion

Profusion lasteth not for ever;
the daughters of riot will become
the children of poverty.

Who streweth her money in the
streets is not generous; who
giveth it vainly away is as guilty
of waste.

Hast thou enough, preserve it
for thine own use; hast thou too
much, bestow it, that those who
merit it may not want bread.

What thou bestowest on the
deserving is not the voluntary gift
of thine hands, but a debt thou
owest, and art bound in justice
to pay.

The meritorious are entitled to thy superfluities; if thou keepest it from them, thou committest an act of injustice, and wrongest thy neighbour of his right.

If thou givest it to the undeserving stranger, thou givest away the property of another: it is not charity.

Sayest thou, these things are mine, I may use them as I list.

Canst thou employ them to thy comfort, thy honour, or thy advantage, thou hast then no superfluity: if otherwise, they are not thine, they are put into thine hands
for

for the use of others, and they will be required of thee.

Be frugal, therefore, in that which thou employest for the use of those who need, as in that which thou keepest for thyself.

Waste not the substance of the deserving poor, nor wrong him of his inheritance.

His merit is a right, and as just as thy immediate possession.

Who hath riches that are a burthen to herself, she is not frugal.

Doth she waste them by hoarding them in secret, doth she cast them

them away in riot and profusenefs :
ſhe cheateth herſelf, and abuſeth
the truſt: for the miſer and the
prodigal defraud both the world
and themſelves.

IN-

INSINUATION.

Be still superior to your sex's arts,
Nor think dishonesty a proof of parts;
For you, the wisest is the plainest rule,
A cunning Woman is a knavish Fool.

LET not thy praises favour of
irony; nor thy compassion
be mixed with evil reflections.

Insinuation is sly; the breath of
her mouth is subtle, and penetrat-
eth unobserved into the heart of her
that heareth.

It is sharp as the east wind; it
blasteth wherever it blows.

It

It is poisonous as the breath of the flow-worm; it is venomous as the bite of the young adder.

She affecteth to pity the back-slidings of her friend; yet she taketh an opportunity to spread the knowledge of them abroad.

She speaketh in all gentleness of her neighbour, and concludeth by wishing things were otherwise with her.

She crieth, it is hard to judge; but faith, can every body be deceived?

The glance of her eye conveyeth evil thoughts, and the motion of

of her head giveth room for the apprehensions of ill.

If she pointeth with her finger, yet sayeth nothing; her look is more significant than the strongest phrase of speech.

Her silence is more destructive than the clamours of the loudest calumny.

Insinuation is barbarous and full of guile, she putteth on the face of friendship to abuse.

She smileth while she stabbeth to the heart; she woundeth where she pretendeth love.

Be

Be open in thy censure, or censure not; for she who deserveth not reproof, should be free from the breath of suspicion.

KNOW-

KNOWLEDGE.

Our needful Knowledge, like our needful food,
Unhedg'd, lies open in life's common field;
And bids all welcome to the vital feast.

WHO is she that travelleth
from the fairest part of
the earth? Who crosseth the
mighty waters, to find out the
ways of the children of men?

Who changeth her habitation
daily? Who dwelleth in the fields
and in the populous cities, beneath
the straw-crowned cottage and
the

the golden roofs of the King's palaces?

Fatigue hath wrinkled her forehead; her head is silvered over with age; yet she walketh upright, for experience is her support and her strength.

Her name is Knowledge: she is the daughter of inquiry, and the mother of many children.

For pleasure and profit, and experience, and sorrow and pain, are the fruit of her womb.

Wouldst thou, O fair one, be the guest of her house, be satisfied with what her table affordeth.

For

For pleasure standeth at the door, and inviteth thee with smiles, and profit speaketh the best on the board; but if thou desirest what she hideth from thee, and pryest into the secrets of her closet, experience will imbitter thy drink, and sorrow, like a churl, make thy cheer and thy welcome naught.

It is not for thee, O woman, to undergo the perils of the deep, to dig in the hollow mines of the earth; to trace the dark springs of science; or to number the thick stars of the heavens.

F

Let

Let the kingdom rule itself;
let the wise men and the counsel-
lors enact laws and correct them;
the policy of government is a hid-
den thing, like a well of water in
the bottom of a deep pit.

Thy kingdom is thine own
house, and thy government the
care of thy family.

Let the laws of thy condition
be thy study, and learn only to go-
vern thyself and thy dependants.

MODESTY.



Modesty as infant roses in their bloom,
Who in a blush their fragrant lives consume.



BEHOLD the daughter of innocence! how beautiful is the mildness of her countenance! how lovely is the diffidence of her looks!

Her cheek is dyed with the deep crimson of the rose; her eyes are placid and serene, and the gentleness of her speech is as the melting softness of the flute.

Her smiles are as the enlivening rays of the sun; the beauty of her presence as the silver light of the moon.

Her attire is simple; her feet tread with caution, and she feareth to give offence.

The young and the old are enamoured with her sweetness; she carrieth her own commendation.

She speaketh not the first in the conversation of women, neither is her tongue heard above her companions.

She turneth not her head to gaze after the steps of men; she inquireth

inquireth not of them whither they are going.

She giveth not her opinion unasked, nor stoppeth her ears to that of another.

She frequenteth not the public haunts of men; she inquireth not after the knowledge improper for her condition.

So becoming is the behaviour of modesty, so lovely among the daughters of women!

Is there who hath forgotten to blush, who playeth with the wanton glances of her eye; who replenishes the cup when the toast

goes round, and despisest the meekness of her sister!

Shame shall overtake her in the prime of her days, and the years of her widowhood shall be infamous as they are many.

MAR-

MARRIAGE.

Hymen, thou source of chaste delights,
Cheerful days, and blissful nights;
Thou dost untainted joys dispense,
And pleasure join with innocence:
Thy raptures last, and are sincere
From future grief and present fear.
Who to forbidden joys would rove,
That knows the sweets of virtuous love!

HAST thou taken thyself an
husband after the institution
of Heaven; hast thou consented
to be bone of his bone, and flesh
of his flesh?

Love him as the partner of thy

happiness, as the sharer of the pleasures and pains of mortality.

Without love, the husband is a tyrant, and the woman a slave.

The matrimonial vow is a commercial contract without affection; 'tis the shadow of marriage, and not the substance thereof.

Doth he respect thee; do thou nourish and improve his affections.

Art thou perverse and froward, so shalt thou extinguish the flame of love, and erase the traces of kindness from his bosom.

Art thou enamoured with his accomplishments, yet let not thy affections

affections out-run his desires; lest thy fondness too openly disgust him.

Neglect not the little arts of endearment; but let the charm which captivated the lover, secure the attachment of the husband.

Forget not the elegance of thy virginity, but appear every morning as at the morning of thy bridal day.

Let not jealousy come near thy bosom; it is the monster that feedeth upon its own entrails.

It is called the child of love; but as the viper whose birth is the death

death of its parent, so is the conception of jealousy the destruction of the mother that bears it.

Be thou cautious to destroy suspicion in the breast of thine husband, lest it prove as fatal to thy peace, as if the fruit of thine own conception.

Suspicion goes about whispering lies; she will fill thy brain with uneasy dreams; thy sleep shall forsake thee, and thou wilt have no rest night nor day.

Her companions are wrath and anger, and malice and revenge; for

for jealousy is the rage of a man,
and the madness of a woman.

Hath thy husband deceived thee;
doth he proclaim it aloud; doth he
publish it in the streets, and boast
his shame as an act of glory; pour
not vinegar on nitre, neither ap-
ply corrosives, where the balsam
of tenderness is wanting.

Neither the thunder, nor the
storm of hail, closeth the open-
ings of the dry earth, but the soft
dew and the gentle showers of
heaven.

Return his injustice with mild-
ness of reproof, that his guilt may
not

not have to reproach thee with bitterness: so shall thy meekness sting him deeper than the sharpest venom of the clamorous tongue.

The roaring of the stuck boar exciteth not our pity; but the patience of the bleeding lamb awakeneth to compassion.

Art thou suspected, yet hast thou been solicitous to approve thyself virtuous; patience will heal the wounds of his unkindness.

Tempt not the weakness of his suspicion of unwonted levity;
thou

thou shalt but inflame him the more, for his mind is distempered.

Wouldst thou urge a madman when he stareth, wouldst thou give him a sword that he may wound himself?

Make not thine husband a stranger to thy friends, lest the fashion of the times make you strangers to each other.

Be thou obedient, for the law of superiority is given to man from above, and subjection is the portion of the daughters of Eve.

The imperious woman raiseth a storm for her own shipwreck, and
she

ſhe that affects dominion ſhall be made the ſlave of a huſband.

As rebellion liſteth up its head againſt its ſovereign, and thereby adds weight to the yoke it attempteth to ſhake off; ſo the ſubjection of a wife, when ſhe uſurpeth to govern, ſhould be converted into ſervitude.

Expoſe not the infirmities of thine huſband, neither contemplate on his affections; caſt thou a luſtre on his virtues, for the beauty of his conduct is an honour to thine own.

Be

Be not luxurious nor extravagant, lest thou convert the riches of thy husband into joys that avail not, and trinkets that are of no profit.

Affect not beyond thy sphere, nor think the honour of thy family is in the appearance of great things.

Preserve thy vow inviolated, for the strayings of thine husband absolve thee not.

RE-

REFLECTION.

Ne'er make to dangerous Wit a vain pretence,
But wisely rest content with modest sense;
Of those who claim it, more than half have none,
And half of those who have it are undone.

AS the way of a man who
walketh, yet knoweth not
whither he is going, so is the dis-
course of one who weigheth not
his words.

As the chattering daw, that
prateth without understanding;
as the young magpie, with its
double

double tongue, talketh by rote ; as the monkey jabbers ; as the green parrot squalls without ceasing ; so is a woman who regardeth not her speech.

Before thou openest thy lips to speak, reflect whether thou knowest the truth of what thou art about to say, or understandest the matter thereof.

Else thou mayest be detected in a falsehood, and thy assertions may be an impeachment of thy understanding.

So shall the stranger, and the acquaintance, repeat thy words to

G

thy

thy disadvantage; the sincere will despise thee, and the wiser than thou, laugh thy folly to scorn.

Let thy promises be few, and such as thou canst perform; lest thou art reduced to break thy word, and it be hereafter reckoned of no account.

Be not less circumspect over thy actions; for the sayings of thy mouth may be forgotten; but the work of thine hands will make a deeper impression, and may be lasting cause of remorse.

Proceed not to speak or act, before thou hast weighed thy words,
and

and examined the tendency of every step thou shalt take ; so shall disgrace fly from thee ; and in thy house shall shame be a stranger ; repentance shall not visit thee ; nor sorrow dwell upon thy cheek.

Consider what thou art about to do before thou beginnest thy work ; lest thou labour in vain, and the fruit of thy endeavours turn to no end.

Weigh thy strength and thy design ; lest thou faint under thy burden, and fall short of the recompence of thy toil.

G 2

Wouldst

Wouldst thou attempt to reach up to the moon, the nurse would laugh, and the young child hold thee in derision; yet as well mayst thou undertake a work thou canst not perform.

Examine also the price of thy labour, the consequence of thy deeds; lest when thou hast finished thy task, thou art dissatisfied with thy wages.

For the consequence of precipitancy is repentance at leisure.

The price of folly is reproach:
And the wages of sin is death.

Harken

Hearken therefore unto the voice of Reflection; her words are the words of wisdom; and her paths shall lead thee to safety and truth.

REPUTATION.

For when a Woman's Reputation's gone,
All that repenting Virtue may inspire
Can never fix it in its state again.

BRIGHTER than polished silver, more valuable than Peruvian ore; more precious than the pearl in the sea, than the diamond in the bowels of the earth, or all the shining treasures of the mines of Potosi, is reputation to a woman.

As the time that is past is gone for ever; and the word that escapeth thy lips returneth not again;

again; so is the good name of a woman when it goeth from her.

Art thou beautiful as the morning; art thou comely as the evening; do strangers speak thy praise, and thy acquaintance pour their encomiums on thee; yet thy way is a narrow path, from which, if thou strayest, thou wilt never more find it out; thy praises will be turned into revilings, and thy encomiums into keen reproach.

Art thou placed on an eminence, among the daughters of women; dost thou sit at the head of the board; do crowds of admirers bow down before thee with reverence?

yet thou fitteſt on a ſlender pinnacle, from which the ſudden breath of indiſcretion, or the ſtrong blaſt of envy, may caſt thee down; ſo ſhall thy fall be that of a falling meteor; thou ſhalt be deſpiſed in the duſt, and gazed at on high no more.

Wouldſt thou preſerve this jewel of a high price; let not the boafter, nor the profeſſed betrayer, come near thine houſe.

Be not frequent in the walks, nor in the thronged parts of the city, nor in the high places of the theatre.

Let not thy foot often leap at
the

the sound of music, lest to thy dancing-days thy reputation forsake thee.

Encourage not a train of admirers, lest their envy and jealousy of each other cast an odium on thy conduct.

As the way of a man on the ridge of an house, so is the fame of a woman among a crowd of fools; but the coquet is light of heart, and danceth along; no wonder therefore she falleth.

Yet affect not to despise temptation; for the prude loseth her good name by the means she taketh to preserve it.

As

As a man, on the brow of a precipice, trembleth at the depth below, and, fearing to fall, his head swimmeth and he is gone; so is a woman who boasteth her reputation.

Keep the appearance of evil at a distance; for the shew of a crime may be as fatal to the reputation, as the reality of a transgression.

Sport not with thy good name, nor run it heedlessly into danger; for the consciousness of thine own innocence will not protect thee from reproach.

RELI-

RELIGION.

Thy force alone, RELIGION, Death disarms,
Breaks all his darts, and ev'ry viper charms;
Softened by thee, the grisly form appears
No more the horrid object of our fears,
We undismay'd this awful power obey,
That guides us thro' the safe, tho' gloomy way,
Which leads to life, and to the blest abode,
Where ravish'd minds enjoy, what here they
own'd—a God.

BRIGHT as the morning star,
dressed in the radiance of the
sun-beams, cometh the seraph of
immortality.

She

She approacheth in white robes ;
her eye is fixed on the heavens ;
her knee is humbled in the dust ;
she giveth laws to the daughters of
women.

She teacheth the way of virtue ;
her precepts are simplicity and
truth.

The duties she enjoineeth are
plain and easy ; she dealeth not in
the systems of speculation and vain
philosophy.

She perplexeth not the mind
with the hypotheses of scepticism,
neither the cavillers nor the so-
phists

phists are the teachers of her precepts.

Attend to her counsel, and abide by her instructions ; so shall peace be the companion of thy reflections, and happiness the partner of thy contemplations.

In the practice of piety is satisfaction on earth, and its reward is on high in the regions of bliss and immortality.

VIRGINITY.

As some fair plant, that in a garden's rear'd
Whil' fanning winds refresh its op'ning flow'rs,
The eyes of ev'ry youth, and ev'ry maid allures;
Torn from the stalk, the tender blossoms fade,
Despis'd by ev'ry youth, and ev'ry maid;
So, while her virgin bloom adorns the fair,
By all she's courted, and to all she's dear;
But, when her faded chastity is gone,
By none she's courted, is belov'd by none.

THE coronet of glory decketh
the head of the young vestal,
she sitteth in respect; her steps are
attended with reverence, and the
words of her mouth are held in
high estimation.

She

She approacheth the excellence of angels; her state is that of the most perfect innocence of mortality.

The Heathens consecrated her to divinity; her trust was esteemed an inviolable security, and her intercession gave life to those who had forfeited it unto death.

The Christian calleth the mother of Salvation by her name; she is honoured throughout the whole earth.

Art thou enamoured with the beauty of her condition; wouldst thou honour thyself in her situation; attend to the voice of instruction,

struction, and shun the rock on which the vessel of thy sister hath been dashed to pieces.

Presume not on a vow of chastity, nor be transported with the zeal of voluntary virginity; there is no merit in constraint, there is no virtue in forced obedience.

Be cautious lest thou sully the whiteness of innocence; the least speck is seen on the new fallen snow.

Let not curiosity mislead thee; for curiosity is unseemly in a woman, but in a virgin dangerous as the breath of evil.

Let

Let thy conversation be with the sisters of elegance; listen not to the levity of the daughters of indiscretion.

Do they say, there is no harm, we may talk, for the words of our lips are air, and not criminal: these are the snares of the licentious; the breath of their mouth is malignant; the sparkling of their eyes is contagious.

They will infect thee to do ill; thou wilt fall into the snare before thou art aware thereof.

As the ladder descendeth by degrees, so many are the intermediate steps between the modesty of

H

the

the virgin and the boldness of a prostitute.

Let not thine ear listen to the tale of a wanton, nor be privy to the amour of thy sister, even with her sworn spouse.

Delight not in the romantic tales of love; the triumphant beauty and the captive knight are deluding images to the passions.

A fictitious tale may awaken a real curiosity, and that may prove fatal to thy peace.

Learn not wisdom of thy companions, nor endeavour to overreach the sagacity of thy mother.

Let

Let thy toilette claim thy morning hours, but dress not a second time in the day.

Thy elegance will be an ornament, but thy frequent change of apparel will favour of profuseness, and uncertainty of temper.

Let not thy servants fly thick with invitations, neither be thou much affected if the rout be put off till to-morrow.

Be not perpetually gadding abroad, neither let the gadder abroad be often invited to thine home.

In thy father's house, learn the economy of a wife from thy mother; so shalt thou carry it into life, and be the comfort of thy future husband.

Is there who delighteth in assemblies; who prideth herself in the pleasures of the mask; who staketh her fortune on a die? she putteth her honour into the hands of a sharper, and placeth the jewel of her reputation on the next hazard.

The days of her virginity shall want the honours thereof; and the man who giveth his freedom for
her

her embraces, shall repent of his bargain.

Grey hairs are uncomely to the virgin; the ancient maiden is a bye-word with her sisters, and is accounted ill-conditioned among women.

Doth she strive to hide her years; doth she assume the gaiety of her youth; her celibacy will not appear the effect of choice, but of necessity.

Reject not the ordinance of marriage, nor put the day afar off, when it promises thee happiness.

Yet

Yet trust not a man, on thine own knowledge; confide not in his appearance before thee.

Deceit is familiar to his ways, and flattery and hypocrisy the fruits of his tongue.

Is he obsequious, ceremonious, and full of words; though the honey of the wild bee is on his lips, yet the sting of the hornet lieth hid in his bosom.

Be not taken with the appearance of gaiety: the painted butterfly is an emblem of the coxcomb.

Be not deceived by an high opinion of heroism: by the empty braggard;

braggard; he is the found of a drum, and the security he promiseth thee, but the defence of a coward.

Neither is the valour of a man, or the strength of his arm, an indication of the integrity of his heart.

Hath he slain his friend in defence of thy beauty; is his sword loose in its scabbard; join not thy hand with his, lest thou repent the magnanimity of thine husband.

Take not a man absorpt in study; the philosopher is not a man of this world; he will be

absent even in thy company; he will be as a child taught the common forms of ceremony.

He will hold thee inferior to his profound wisdom; he will regard thy remonstrances as the conceptions of a weak woman.

Thou wilt have no companion in him; he will be wanting in the duties of his family.

Listen not to the servile, who cringeth low, and is a beggar in his solicitations; for when he hath command, he will be imperious; thou wilt perceive he knoweth not himself.

Avoid

Avoid the libertine, as the fiery serpent; he is the destroyer among the daughters of women.

Thou wilt be wedded to him, yet have no husband; thy bed will be barren, and thy nights comfortless and forsaken.

Doth he promise reformation, yet thou hast no security.

Dost thou flatter thyself, thy charms will engage him for ever; thou wilt find thyself deceived e'er the waning of the moon be over.

Give not thy youth to the embraces of age, nor the treasure of
thy

thy beauty to enrich the poverty
of the decrepid.

The gravity of age ill suiteth
the levity of youth, and disparity
of years is the source of many in-
quietudes.

Sell not thyself for gold; for
contentment is not the portion of
riches.

Let the voice of a parent sanctify
thy choice, but let thy director
thereto be thine own happiness.

VANITY.

Seek to be good, but aim not to be great,
A Woman's noblest station is retreat:
Her fairest virtues fly from sight,
Domestic worth still shuns too strong a light.

THOU art fair as the snow-
drop of the Spring, the rose
of June blooms on thy damask
cheek, thine eye out-sparkles the
blue lustre of the sapphire, thou
art stately as the tall fir-tree, and
thy presence is commanding as
majesty itself.

The east and the west pour forth
their

their treasures to deck thee; the sea and land give up the pearl and precious stone; thy array is the finest silk; the diamond is a star on thy bosom, and the ruby and the emerald are interwoven with the hair on thy temples.

Therefore Vanity hath lifted thee up; thou flutterest on the wings of thine own conceit; thou despisest even the ground where the vulgar tread; thy chariot is drawn by white horses, and thy feet are hardly conscious of their own burden.

O deluded woman! the butterfly

fly and the gaudy tulip are emblems of thy fancied importance.

They are decked in the pride of summer; they enjoy the sun-shine a-while, but shortly fade and attract the eye no more.

Is thy breath perfume? Is thy taste rich? The parti-coloured carnation, and the speckled rose, are sweet, and the juice of the ripe grape as delicious to the taste.

But the rude hand of the spoiler cometh, both in the opening of the bud, and at the fulness of the bloom, and the untimely frost turns sour the rich flavour of the vine.

So

So misfortune may crop thy
imaginary greatness in the bud of
thy joys, or in the full bloom of
thy splendour; and the clay-cold
hand of disease convert thy exqui-
site taste to undistinguishing bit-
terness.

Doth gold pamper thee with
dainties? Doth the smiling aspect
of full-fed plenty delight thee?

Be not exalted beyond measure,
for thou knowest not how soon
they may forsake thee: when
starving poverty shall provide
scraps for thy table, and meagre
want, with famine on her hollow
cheek, shall stare thee in the face.

Art

Art thou quick of invention ?
is thy mind stored with the talents
of wit and understanding ? Doth
the power of elocution sit on thy
tongue ? Do thy periods flow like
honey from thy lips ? Be not vain-
glorious of these, nor boast them
in thy possession.

For the fool will take a plea-
sure to peck at thee ; thy words
will be sifted, and thy speeches ex-
amined with the nicest severity.

The malicious and the ignorant
will catch at the opening of thy
mouth ; neither shall the justness of
thy sayings escape their criticism.

Nay,

Nay, they will condemn thee unheard; yea, censure when thou speakest not.

Let another praise thee, and not thine own mouth; a stranger, and not thine own lips.

If thou sayest thou wilt act wisely and eschew evil; and the frailties of human nature should overcome thee to do ill, they will then point at thee, and cry out, *This is the wise woman who buildeth her house on a rock, who is sagacious to do good; let us profit by her example, let us take pattern by her wisdom!*

Avoid, therefore, vain-glory and
self-

self-conceit; for she who lifteth herself up, will others take a pride to pull down; and, if the day of calamity should come, her fall will be their triumph and their rejoicing.

But the humble shall be honoured in prosperity; they shall find favour in adversity; and compassion shall invite them to her home, in the day of trouble and distress.

For better it is that it be said unto thee, come up hither; than that thou shouldest be put lower in the presence of the Prince whom thine eyes have seen.

I. WIDOW.

WIDOWHOOD.

He who had first my vows shall ever have;
For whom I lov'd on earth, I worship in the grave.

IS thy love stronger than death;
do thy affections survive the
decease of thine husband; doth
thy flame burn unextinguished,
even as the funeral lamp of the
sepulchre?

The obligations thou liest under
are sacred to the remains of him
thou lovest.

Be not pompous in the burial of
the

the body; embalm his memory, and perfume it with the fragrance of his virtues.

Let his frailties sleep with him in the grave, let his offences be remembered no more.

The care of a husband's honour is honour to a wife, and the tenderness to preserve it is most comely to the widow.

Art thou guardian to thy children, wrong not the fatherless.

The orphan and the widow are joined in calamity; therefore let them not rise up against each other.

Art thou young, and seekest a

second espousal, experience hath not made thee wise.

Art thou as a gally slave, who, in the madness of joy for his liberty, runneth himself again into bondage.

Art thou ancient, yet seekest thou the embraces of a spouse, he will be the bane of thy latter days; he will bring jealousy to thine heart, and misery to thy grey hairs.

He will think himself a living body tied to a dead carcase, and hold thee loathed in his sight.

Dost

Dost thou think to fix the giddy appetite of youth? thou mayst buy beauty, but it will not become thee; thou mayst paint, but it will not make thee fair.

When thou art dressed for the bridal morn, men shall say, is this decking for the living, thou deceivest thyself; if for the dead, make haste to follow him.

F I N I S.

V E R S E S

ON A

T E A R.



I.

OH! that the Chemist's magic art
Could crystalize this sacred treasure!
Long should it glitter near my heart,
A secret source of pensive pleasure.

II.

The little brilliant, ere it fell,
Its lustre caught from Chloe's eye;
Then, trembling, left its coral cell,
The spring of sensibility!

Sweet

III.

Sweet drop of pure and pearly light!
 In thee the rays of virtue shine,
 More calm, clear, more mildly bright,
 Than any gem that gilds the mine.

IV.

Benign restorer of the soul,
 Who ever fly'st to bring relief,
 When first she feels the rude controul
 Of Love or Pity, Joy or Grief.

V.

The sage's and the poet's theme,
 In every clime, in every age;
 Thou charm'st in Fancy's idle dream,
 In Reason's philosophic page.

That

VI.

That very law* which moulds a tear,
And bids it trickle from its source,
That law preserves the earth a sphere,
And guides the planets in their course.

* The law of gravitation.



